

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

SAN DIEGO REGION

RESOLUTION NO. R9-2003-0315

September 10, 2003

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD'S REQUEST FOR FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$54,000) FROM THE STATE WATER POLLUTION CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT FOR TECHNICAL WORK ON DEVELOPING CLEANUP LEVELS PERTAINING TO CONTAMINATED SEDIMENT AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN SAN DIEGO BAY.

Whereas, sediment contamination in the San Diego Bay poses a threat to wildlife and the public health from the potential for contaminants to bioaccumulate and biomagnify in aquatic organisms that may be consumed by wildlife and humans; and

Whereas, portions of San Diego Bay affected by bay bottom contaminated sediment require immediate attention and sediment cleanup level decisions must be made; and

Whereas, there is a high degree of public concern that, in addition to water quality effects, the Regional Board fully evaluate the potential health risks to humans, and wildlife from exposure to pollutants through the food chain attributable to the contaminated sediment; and

Whereas, the Regional Board is interested in working with the Department of Fish and Game to jointly develop a uniform approach, using scientifically defensible methods, to analyze the potential for sediment contaminants to bioaccumulate, and assess risks to the health of wildlife and humans from contaminated sediment sites in San Diego Bay; and

Whereas, the results of this analysis will provide a firm foundation for developing site specific cleanup levels at a number of sites in San Diego Bay that would be fully protective of beneficial uses; and

Whereas, these funds will enable the Regional Board to renew its previous contract (Contract No. 01-251-190-0 DFG) with the California Department of Fish and Game, allowing Fish and Game staff to continue to provide technical expertise and recommendations to the Regional Board for the assessment of public health and ecological risks posed by the contaminated sediment in San Diego Bay; and

Whereas, by memorandum dated August 26, 2003 the Executive Officer requested funding in the amount of fifty four thousand dollars (\$54,000) from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account is needed to enable the California Department

of Fish and Game staff to provide technical expertise and recommendations to the Regional Board for the assessment of health risks to humans and wildlife posed by the contaminated sediment in San Diego Bay; and

Whereas, Section 13442 of the California Water Code allows for any public agency with authority to clean up a waste or abate the effects thereof to apply to the State Water Resources Control Board for a grant from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account to assist in cleaning up the waste or abating its effects on waters of the state; and

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, hereby requests the State Water Resources Control Board to grant fifty four thousand dollars (\$54,000) from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account for technical work on developing cleanup levels pertaining to contaminated sediment at several locations in San Diego Bay.

JOHN MINAN
*Chairman,
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region*